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September 6, 2000

BY HAND

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Ex Parte Communication in PP Docket No. 00-67 /

Dear Ms. Salas:

On September 5, 2000, Lawrence Sidman and Michael Pratt of Verner, Liipfert, Bernhard, McPherson & Hand met with Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Helgi Walker, Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth, concerning issues relative to the above-referenced proceeding. Dave Arland of Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. ("Thomson") participated in the meeting by telephone.

Discussion at the meeting focused on: (1) the necessity of ensuring that the DFAST license does not impinge on the Fair Use doctrine or consumers' expectations regarding the functionality of electronics equipment and lawful home recording practices; and (2) the desirability of ensuring cable compatibility on an interim basis by requiring an 8 VSB output from a cable system or a cable set top box directly to a DTV receiver. A series of press releases detailing Thomson's continued commitment to the digital transition were distributed at the meeting and are enclosed.

In accordance with Section 1.1206 of the Commission's Rules, 47 C.F.R. § 1.1206, an original and one copy of this letter, including enclosures, are being filed with your office. Please direct any questions concerning this matter to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael M. Pratt

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1
List A B C D E

Enclosures

cc (w/o encl.): Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth
Helgi Walker

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RCA



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CBS AND RCA JOIN FORCES TO PRESENT SUPER BOWL XXXV AND AFC PLAYOFFS IN HDTV

NEW YORK and INDIANAPOLIS, August 18, 2000 -- CBS Television and THOMSON multimedia's RCA brand have entered into an advertising agreement for Thomson (NYSE: TMS) to underwrite the costs of producing high-definition coverage of Super Bowl XXXV as well as the four AFC playoff games.

Produced by CBS, the five live HDTV telecasts will be produced and transmitted independent of the regularly scheduled CBS football coverage being broadcast on the traditional analog network. All NFL HDTV programming will be broadcast in 1920 x 1080i, the highest-definition widescreen digital television format.

The five games are: AFC Wildcard: Sunday, December 31, 2000; AFC Division playoffs: Saturday, January 6, and Sunday, January 7, 2001; The AFC Championships: Sunday, January 14 and Super Bowl XXXV, Sunday January 28, from Tampa, Florida.

"CBS Sports is pleased to partner with Thomson and further the network's position as a leader in the digital sports television area," said Sean McManus, President, CBS Sports. "From primetime to the best in sports television to the most watched television event of the year, CBS continues to create more opportunities than other network for viewers to enjoy high-definition television in all dayparts."

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"As the consumer electronics sponsor for the NFL and a leading manufacturer of digital television products, RCA is the ideal company to bring the finale of the football season to homes in HDTV," said Tom Wardrop, Vice President - Advertising, Americas for RCA. "The Super Bowl is the most watched program all year on television, and we expect that America's favorite broadcast will spur interest in America's favorite TV brand - RCA. Once football fans see their favorite games in HDTV, they'll never want to go back to the same old screen," Wardrop said.

Thirty-one of CBS's owned and affiliated stations are currently broadcasting in digital, covering approximately 45% of the nation. By the end of the year, CBS expects to be transmitting digital programming across approximately 41 stations, reaching approximately 58% of the U.S.

The consumer electronics industry's most comprehensive selection of digital television products is available from RCA, the brand that introduced commercial television service. RCA digital TV products include an affordable set-top DTC100 HDTV receiver (\$649 suggested retail price). The versatile and affordable DTC100 receives over-the-air analog and digital broadcasts, as well as standard and high-definition services from the DIRECTV satellite system.

RCA also offers a line of projection and direct-view Digital High-Resolution Monitors and has just introduced a new, fully-integrated 38-inch widescreen HDTV set (\$3,799 suggested retail price). The 38-inch RCA HDTV is now shipping to retailers and allows viewers to watch over-the-air analog and digital programming from local broadcasters as well as standard digital and high-definition programs from the DIRECTV satellite service.

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This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve a number of risks and uncertainties. Among the factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those expected are the following: business conditions and general economic conditions; competitive factors such as pricing and marketing efforts of rival companies; timing of product introductions; ability of contract manufacturers to meet product price objectives and delivery schedules; legislative, regulatory, and industry initiatives that may affect planned or actual product features and marketing methods; and the pace and success of product research and development. For more information on the potential factors that could affect the company's financial results, please review the SEC filings of the company.

About THOMSON multimedia:

With sales of 6.7 billion Euros (U.S. \$6.5 billion) in 1999 and 55,000 employees in more than 30 countries, THOMSON multimedia, is the world's fourth largest producer of consumer electronics. The Group has four principal activities: Displays and Components, Consumer Products, New Media Services, and Patents and Licensing. THOMSON multimedia engineers, manufactures, and markets display components and consumer products such as televisions, VCRs, audio systems, digital decoders, DVD players and professional video equipment under the popular RCA and THOMSON brand names. THOMSON multimedia is listed in the Paris (Sicovam: 18453) and New York (NYSE: TMS) stock exchanges. THOMSON multimedia is the parent company of the U.S.-based Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. For more information: <http://www.thomson-multimedia.com>

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RCA



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NEW HDTV LINEUP FROM RCA AND PROSCAN EMPHASIZES CONSUMER CHOICE, LOWER PRICE POINTS

***Fully Integrated Direct-View, Projection Models Promise
Affordable Choices for Stunning Reality of Digital Performance***

INDIANAPOLIS, August 18, 2000 - The commitment of THOMSON multimedia's (NYSE: TMS) RCA and PROSCAN brands to expanded availability of digital television takes on new dimensions this year with the introduction of the industry's broadest variety of fully integrated HDTV models including the world's largest direct-view 16x9 widescreen HDTV.

"We are confident that the broad choice of screen sizes and designs, plus price points 50 percent lower than last year's models, will spur a growing number of consumers to acquire the lifelike home entertainment capability of digital HDTV," said Thomson's Mike O'Hara, Senior Vice President - Americas. "This model line-up officially moves HDTV into the mainstream consumer market."

The RCA and PROSCAN HDTV family embraces five new models in screen sizes ranging from 34 inches (diagonal) to a huge 65-inch monitor.

Among the new introductions now in production is the RCA 38-inch F38310 (suggested retail price \$3,799), the world's largest direct-view HDTV in the widescreen 16x9 format. Like all fully integrated HDTVs from Thomson, the F38310 features built-in electronics to receive analog and digital over-the-air TV signals as well as standard and high-definition programming from DIRECTV.

Along with new direct-view models, Thomson's RCA and PROSCAN brands feature an impressive pair of widescreen rear projection HDTV monitors in giant 65- and 61-inch screen sizes.

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Among advanced performance and convenience features shared by the RCA and PROSCAN brand HDTV family are: 3DY/C Frame Comb Filters for virtual elimination of edge crawls and rainbow effects; Auto Color Control to maintain color integrity across the entire picture; High-Performance Scan Velocity Modulation for improved sharpness and detail; Dolby® Digital Surround Sound capability (when connected to a Dolby Digital amplifier and external speakers) and Broadcast Stereo audio capability; Front-Fired Speakers; Format Control; Advanced Twin-Tuner Picture-in-Picture, and Universal Glo-in-the-Dark Remote Control.

The full line-up of RCA and PROSCAN HDTV models includes:

DIRECT-VIEW HDTV

At 38 inches diagonal, the world's largest direct-view HDTV set is among the industry's most affordable at \$3,799. Offered in a contemporary "Venetian Suede" silver finish, the RCA F38310 will be joined by a sister 38-inch product from PROSCAN - the PS38000 - which features a \$3,999 suggested retail price (includes custom designed base).

Even more affordable for consumers who prefer direct-view performance is the PROSCAN 34-inch PS34000 (scheduled for later introduction) which commands a suggested retail price of \$3,499. Optional matching bases are available with the direct-view models.

Both the 38-inch and 34-inch 16x9 widescreen models are capable of displaying more than one million pixels of picture information with a 1080I scanning format. The two models feature a fully integrated electronics package that allows reception of over-the-air analog and digital signals as well as built-in standard DIRECTV service and HDTV programming from the DIRECTV satellite service.

Direct-view HDTVs feature Thomson's advanced PERFORMAX picture tubes, 20 watts of audio power, and the new SYNCROSCAN™ HD component video input for simple connection to digital components such as DVD players and digital cable TV set-top devices that use the Y Pr Pb component video connections. The advanced PERFORMAX picture tubes, manufactured at Thomson's Marion, Indiana color TV picture tube facility (the nation's largest such plant) feature a combination of leading-edge performance technologies. These include the Precision Focus HD Resolution Electron Gun and Digital Precision Pitch tube with .78mm INVAR shadow mask. This combination of technologies combine to support the resolution requirements of HDTV with the brightest possible picture.

REAR PROJECTION HDTV

The RCA and PROSCAN brand rear-projection HDTVs provide some of the industry's largest digital viewing areas with 16x9 widescreen in 61- and 65-inches (diagonal) respectively. Like their direct-view counterparts, both the 61-inch RCA P61310 (suggested retail price \$4,999) and the 65-inch PROSCAN PS65000 (suggested retail price \$5,299) are fully integrated with built-in capability to receive analog, digital, and HDTV programming from terrestrial broadcasters and DIRECTV.

Among features of the rear projection models are one-million pixel Digital Video Resolution; High-Definition Optical System; Hi-Gain Dark-Tint Screen for 25 percent improved picture brightness, High-Resolution Projection Tubes, INTELLIFOCUS™ Auto Convergence, and Super Shield™ Built-in Screen Protector.

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RCA



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EXPANDED FAMILY OF DIGITAL HI-RES MONITORS FROM THOMSON'S RCA, PROSCAN BRANDS OFFERS CONSUMER-FRIENDLY ROUTE TO DIGITAL HOME ENTERTAINMENT EXPERIENCE

Advanced Color TV Series Now Features Convenience of Interactive TV Guide

INDIANAPOLIS, August 18, 2000 - Rich in both home entertainment options and user-friendly convenience features, a newly expanded series of RCA and PROSCAN brand Digital High-Resolution color TV monitors from THOMSON multimedia (NYSE: TMS) offers an affordable route to HDTV-quality picture performance and theatre-caliber audio capability along with computer-quality graphics and video gaming capabilities.

Both direct-view and rear projection RCA and PROSCAN brand Digital High-Resolution monitors - with screen sizes ranging from 27 inches to 61 inches (diagonal) - offer the full breadth of home-theatre entertainment options along with a host of potential interactive and data applications. Stunningly clear images and six-channel surround sound capability are easily achievable with the new series of monitors, and when connected to RCA and PROSCAN brand digital set-top converters like the RCA DTC100 or PSHD105 (both suggested retail price \$649), the consumer can receive digital programming with the lifelike brilliance of HDTV.

"When we introduced this new series of Digital High-Resolution monitors last year, we knew we were pushing the envelope for optimum home viewing enjoyment," said Thomson's Vic Theobalds, Vice President - TV Product Management, "but this year we challenged our product development team to seek even higher levels of excellence in both performance and convenience. We're confident the viewing public will agree that they have exceeded our expectations."

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For optimum performance, the Digital Hi-Res monitors are coupled with the DTC100 or PSHD105. The result is HDTV-quality picture performance with up to 1.3 million pixels in rear projection monitors and up to 864,000 pixels in direct-view models. Picture performance enhancements built into the monitors include a Deluxe Shielded Tuner With 181-Channel Tuning Capability that dramatically reduces ghosting caused from off-air pick-up when watching cable channels; Dynamic BlackStretch Circuitry that enhances contrast and detail; High Performance Scan Velocity Modulation that improves sharpness and detail, especially in high-contrast areas; and a High Performance Video Amplifier that optimizes performance from high-resolution signal sources such as the RCA DIRECTV satellite receiver, DVD players, and S-Video signals.

Additional performance technology provided in rear projection Digital Hi-Res Monitors include the new Intellifocus™ Auto Convergence that delivers the sharpest picture possible with corner-to-corner clarity; Custom Designed 5-Element Lens System that provides a brighter picture with improved corner focus and overall video resolution; 3DY/C Digital Frame Comb Filter that eliminates dot and edge crawl while providing for better transitions between scene changes; a High-Gain Dark-Tint Screen for 25 percent improved brightness; and Adjustable Color Warmth which enables the viewer to select one of three background color adjustments for personal viewing preference. Audio capability includes SRS Focus Audio Technology and Broadcast Stereo with dbx Noise Reduction. Additional features are interactive TV Guide program guide, Advanced Twin Tuner™ Picture-in-Picture, V-Chip Parental Control, Universal Glo-in-the-Dark Remote, built-in Super Shield screen protector, and seven sets of A/V inputs.

In direct-view Digital Hi-Res monitors, performance enhancements include a 3-Line Digital Comb Filter that virtually eliminates edge crawls and rainbow effects; Video Noise Reduction that provides a cleaner, more consistent overall picture; Auto Color Balance that maintains overall picture quality during the life of the tube; Auto Color Control that maintains natural flesh tones and color fidelity from channel-to-channel and scene-to-scene; Dark-Tint High-Contrast Picture Tube that delivers outstanding picture contrast even in bright room conditions; and a High-Resolution Dynamic Focus Electron Gun specifically designed to optimize picture performance from the Thomson-manufactured Digital Precision Pitch picture tube. Other features include SRS Focus Audio and Broadcast Stereo with dbx, Guide Plus+ Gold program guide, Advanced Twin-Tuner, Universal Glo-in-the-Dark Remote, and seven sets of A/V inputs.

An additional entertainment advantage of the new Digital Hi-Res monitors is the capability to accommodate a wide assortment of products with its multiple connections. Front-panel jacks include a USB port with the new Synchronscan™ HD Component and S-VGA video inputs for video games, camcorders, digital still cameras or regular and progressive scan DVD players. Back-panel connections easily accept computers or entertainment products such as RCA DIRECTV systems, VCRs, DVD players, HDTV Digital receivers, speaker or stereo systems, or cable boxes.

Among the added convenience features of this year's Digital Hi-Res line-up is the interactive on-screen TV Guide menu system which makes it even easier for the consumer to find his or her favorite program for near-instant viewing. Undecided about viewing choices? Simply use the remote control to browse through the Grid Guide and get TV listings, with program descriptions, up to 48 hours in advance. The Guide will even enable you to sort your favorite programs by theme, setting up a menu that allows you to select from categories of shows such as comedy, mystery and drama. Finally, if you want to record a show for later viewing, you can simply press the record button on the remote, and the EPG will automatically record it on your VCR through an IR connection.

Perhaps even more appealing for today's busy consumer is the ease in which these highly advanced digital monitors go to work in delivering entertainment. Simply plug in the television, and the auto-tuning feature will lock in your local and cable channels. If you have external A/V components connected to the set, the TV will automatically adjust for each product. All systems are integrated with the pre-programmed remote control. For example, when the DVD button on the remote is pressed, the TV switches to the DVD input and the remote changes functions to control the DVD player.

Following are the monitors included in this year's RCA and PROSCAN brand series:

RCA

Four models comprise the RCA line-up of digital high-resolution color TV monitors. They are the 61-inch MM61110 (suggested retail price \$3,299) and the 52-inch MM52110 (suggested retail price \$2,799) rear projection models and the direct-view 36-inch MM36110 (suggested retail price \$2,199) and the 32-inch MM32110 (suggested retail price \$1,749), both of which are available with an optional custom base.

PROSCAN

The five PROSCAN models include the rear-projection 61-inch PS61810 (suggested retail price \$3,799), and the 52-inch PS52810 (suggested retail price \$2,999) and three direct-view models, the 36-inch PS36810 (suggested retail price \$2,699), the 32-inch PS32810 (suggested retail price \$2,199), and the 27-inch PS27810 (suggested retail price \$1,299).

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